



# ROADMAP TO RECOVERY

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REPRESENTING NH-02

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# ROADMAP TO RECOVERY



Dear friend,

The COVID-19 Pandemic has challenged our public health infrastructure and economy in unprecedented ways. I have been heartened to see how our communities have banded together to support our fellow neighbors during this challenging time. While we mourn those who we have lost and give thanks to our health workers and frontline staff who have kept us safe, Granite Staters look towards the future to see how we can safely begin our return to normal life.

This new normal will look and feel different, but to achieve this common goal we must first put in place a series of policies that I have outlined in my "Roadmap to Recovery." As we begin the conversation about reopening our economy, it is critical that we listen to the recommendations of public health experts and epidemiologists who are advocating for a multi-tiered approach focused on increased testing, continued physical distancing, contact tracing, treatment and vaccine development and community monitoring.

These policies can help us get back to work and gradually reopen our economy while protecting public health and the threat of future spikes in COVID-19 cases.

**Sincerely,**

*Congresswoman Annie Kuster  
New Hampshire's Second District*

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH



## NATIONAL TESTING STRATEGY

- As most states continue stay-at-home orders to help flatten the curve, we need a vast expansion of testing that requires Federal leadership and direction.
- It is imperative that we develop a national response that can rapidly test every symptomatic case or those suspected to be exposed – this will require a national testing capacity far greater than what is currently being administered, with some public health experts pressing for a capacity of millions of tests to be administered every day.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA), must develop a long-term strategy for rapidly administering tests and work in close coordination with private-sector companies on manufacturing accurate tests.
- These agencies must develop, maintain and streamline the supply chain required to deploy a National Testing Program and ensure that testing remains free of charge for all Americans.
- Furthermore, our National Testing Strategy must work in coordination with state guidance to protect the health and medical privacy of every American, and be administered equitably across communities to ensure rural Americans are not left behind.

An effective National Testing Strategy should ensure that frontline workers – nurses, home health aides, nursing home staff, police, firefighters and beyond – have access to testing and appropriate treatments when available.

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

## COMMUNITY CONTACT TRACING



- An important but difficult element of our recovery will be recruiting and deploying workers to assist with community tracing of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19. Once an individual has tested positive, it is critically important to trace who that person has come in contact with so those people are aware of possible exposure to the virus.
- Partners in Health, located in Boston, is a leading organization in contact tracing and is hiring nearly 1,000 tracers throughout Massachusetts to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Health organizations in other states can follow this model and recruit contact tracers in communities – particularly in areas with high community transmission rates.
- Additionally, I have cosponsored the Mobilizing America to Help Act (Rep. Mike Quigley), which would direct President Trump to invoke his existing authority to detail Peace Corps volunteers who have returned to the US from their posts, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support emergency relief in the wake of COVID-19.
- In a similar effort, on Tuesday April 21st, I helped introduce the UNITE Act (Rep. John Garamendi), which would increase our national recruitment of AmeriCorps volunteers and create good-paying jobs for a national testing corps. This bill would give priority consideration to unemployed veterans and authorize FEMA to hire, train and administer 10,000 additional staff to perform contact tracing of those infected by COVID-19.

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH



## SUPPORTED ISOLATION

- Congress should consider additional measures that provide financial support to individuals who must self-isolate to protect family members and the public from COVID-19 exposure, and ensure that subsequent treatment is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance plans.
- This measure will work in conjunction with community contact tracing and national testing to ensure that we are fully monitoring any potential resurgence of COVID-19 and responding to isolated outbreaks.

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH



## MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- As states look towards easing stay-at-home orders, it will be important to continue embracing physical distancing measures to protect yourself and those around you from exposure. Public health experts across the board recommend that states should consider lifting these orders only when there has been a 14-day period of consistent declines in confirmed cases.
- Higher-trafficked areas like schools, airports and restaurants should continue to review and adjust physical distancing measures to protect our community members. Workers who can continue to work remotely should consider doing so to limit unnecessary person-to-person contacts.
- Vulnerable populations (60+, underlying health issues, respiratory problems, etc) should continue to take serious physical distancing precautions and possibly even continued quarantine.
- Furthermore, as states consider a phased in approach for retail businesses and restaurants, it will be important that these establishments consider physical distancing and the health of patrons during a phased-in reopening.

# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH



## PROTECTING HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

- The lack of a coordinated and centralized Federal effort to procure, manufacture and distribute PPE has led to states competing amongst each other for these critical resources.
- President Trump must expand the use of the Defense Production Act to instruct manufacturers to make the PPE, testing kits and swabs, ventilators and other materials necessary for America to fully combat this virus.
- If President Trump fails to use these powers, Congress should pass H.R. 6390, [Medical Supply Chain Emergency Act](#), which I have supported. This bill would require the President to produce nothing less than 500 million N95 masks, 200,000 medical ventilators, 20 million face-shields, 500 million pairs of medical gloves, and 20 million surgical gowns, along with other medical material necessary for medical personnel to do their jobs. This is a production floor and the President should do more to keep our heroes on the front lines of this crisis safe.



# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

## VACCINE PRODUCTION



- While scientists and health researchers are already working around the clock to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, it is critical that we keep this goal front of mind as we identify policies that get America back to work.
- Vaccine development is incredibly complicated and time consuming, but we must not lose sight of this goal.
- To support this goal, Congress must boost funding towards the research and development of a vaccine – this is one of the most strategic investments we can make to both protect public health and get our economy back on track.
- This investment should equally support our scientists and researchers who are already working to identify a vaccine, and the financing of physical infrastructure and manufacturing capacity once a vaccine is developed.
- Once a vaccine has been developed, it must be made available to every American citizen who wants it free of charge and be distributed equitably amongst our communities to ensure rural America has access. Nobody should be left behind if they are unable to pay for a vaccine that can immunize the majority of Americans from this virus.

# SUPPORTING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



## PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM EXTENSION

- To slow the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impacts of the virus, Main Street businesses have had to shutter their doors in compliance with state stay-at-home orders. This is an extraordinary effort by our small business owners and workers, and they are doing their part to keep people safe.
- We must ensure that these businesses can bounce back once the spread of this virus has been managed, or else our economy could slide into further economic decline.
- The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has been an effective tool to keep small businesses afloat during this downturn, and keep workers paid. As this public crisis evolves, so must our economic policies to support community businesses. Congress must provide additional flexibility for this Program and ensure that it is responsive to future developments and isolated outbreaks if they happen, and ensure there is sufficient funding to ensure all businesses that qualify for the PPP to receive grants and loans through it.
- To achieve this goal, I have cosponsored H.R. 6506, [\*\*Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act\*\*](#), which triples the funding available through the PPP to \$900 billion and allows businesses to automatically receive new loans throughout the duration of the COVID-19 crisis

# SUPPORTING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



## ASSISTING WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS

The dramatic rise in unemployment claims in response to stay-at-home orders is unprecedented in American history. With an unemployment rate approaching 20%, it is critical for the Federal government to shore up state unemployment trust funds and continue to support Americans who are out of work. I have advocated for Congress to provide at least \$15.1 billion to these important programs and will continue to support policies that get Granite Staters back to work.

- While the CARES Act provided an additional \$600 weekly in assistance for workers that have been furloughed or laid off as a result of COVID-19, Congress must take concrete measures to support those who are financially distressed.
- While this is an important first step, these enhanced benefits will expire on July 31, 2020 unless Congress acts. Policymakers should consider a gradual reduction of supplemental UI for workers experiencing long-term unemployment.
- We must recognize that some Americans will not have jobs to return to after the COVID-19 crisis has subsided. To ensure that unemployed workers have a fair chance at rejoining our economy, Congress should provide a substantial investment in our workforce development system.

# SUPPORTING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



## ASSISTING WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS, CONT.

- I am proud to cosponsor the Strengthening UI for Coronavirus Impacted Workers and Students Act (Rep. Dan Kildee), which would extend the \$600 weekly Federal supplement through the end of 2020 and expand this benefit to recent college graduates and students who are entering an incredibly difficult job market.
- Importantly, Congress should continue to provide robust funding for existing programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that support Americans living with food insecurity, and consider increasing the Federal share of Medicaid payments to shore up state funding shortfalls.

# SUPPORTING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



## SUPPORTING SMALL TOWNS & MUNICIPALITIES

- While Congress included important funding to towns and municipalities in the CARES Act through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, more must be done to support localities facing significant revenue shortfalls.
- With states and municipalities normally relying on revenue streams from restaurant, hotel and lodging and other taxes, they are facing unprecedented financial strain that could impact the delivery and administration of basic public works.
- Our small towns have stepped up to the plate in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been on the front lines battling this virus – Congress must support these efforts with continued funding. While some lawmakers want to let our towns go bankrupt, I will continue to push for more funding to support our local cities and towns.

# SUPPORTING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY



## RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR HEROES

- Nurses and doctors, grocery store workers, police officers and firefighters, postal carriers and workers across a number of other industries have taken on tremendous risks to their personal health to keep our families safe and our society functioning during this unprecedented crisis. They truly have been essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To honor the service of our heroes during this crisis, Congress should pass my forthcoming legislation, The Opportunities for Heroes Act. This legislation will provide \$25,000 in student loan debt forgiveness or education credits for essential workers and their families. By forgiving a large portion of student debt, these workers will have more financial freedom to buy homes, make investments and tuck away some extra money for retirement.



# KEEP IN TOUCH

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THIS ROADMAP IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE